



OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE

KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Public Service Announcement

Fireworks Law and Safety

As the 4th of July fast approaches, the Kent County Sheriff Department wants to remind you to be safe and follow the fireworks laws.

Michigan law prohibits using fireworks:

- On public property such as a city, township or county park.
- On church or school property.
- On private property, such as business parking lots, without the owner's specific consent.
- While under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances.

Michigan law also prohibits the sale of fireworks to anybody under the age of 18.

Michigan law also permits local governments to impose firework curfews between the hours of midnight and 8 AM the day of, before and after the holiday. Fireworks may be prohibited other days of the year. Check with the city, village or township that you plan on using fireworks in for their specific restrictions.

Always use caution when lighting fireworks. Last year, more than 8,700 people were treated in US hospital emergency rooms for firework related injuries. One-third of those were children under the age of 15.

In addition to injuries, fireworks caused more than 17,800 fires which resulted in eight civilian deaths, one firefighter death and \$32 million in property damage.

Fireworks Safety Tips:

- Only buy from licensed dealers
- Never alter or combine fireworks
- Children should never handle fireworks
- Never point fireworks toward anything other than open sky
- Only use away from structures, vehicles and trees

Follow the rules, be a good neighbor and be careful and you will have a happy holiday.

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